

**Question for written answer E-010470/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Banks penalising EU citizens for not being rich

We acknowledge receipt of the Commission's answer to question E-006483/2014 on banking derivatives. However, no reference was made to the Fortis case in the answer to question 3.

We recall that the European bank Fortis has decided to impose a penalty fee of EUR 4.50 for any transaction which cannot be carried out due to insufficient funds. This measure was introduced on 1 July 2014. Fortis defends the move by saying that this is already common practice in other banking institutions. This new measure introduced by Fortis reminds us of the power that banks have over the lives of EU citizens.

The European banking system was saved by the European Union stepping in to fund struggling banks. After injecting these funds, the EU laid down rules of conduct that banks were supposed to follow. However, banks are clearly not adhering to the rules of conduct and are taking advantage of their dominant position to impose absurd repressive measures on EU citizens.

What is the Commission's position on banking institutions laying claim to such sums of money, and does the Commission not believe that such measures will contribute to increasing the divide between rich and poor?